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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/674,255

09/29/2003

Yuichi Iwase

09792909-5694

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26263 7590 06/13/2007
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EXAMINER

HON, SOW FUN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1772

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/13/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Advisory Action Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief	Application No. 10/674,255	Applicant(s) IWASE, YUICHI	
	Examiner Sow-Fun Hon	Art Unit 1772	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 01 June 2007 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☐ The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 b) ☒ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
- (a) ☒ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 (b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
 (c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 (d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See attachment to advisory action. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
 5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
 6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
 7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☒ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
 The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
 Claim(s) allowed: None.
 Claim(s) objected to: None.
 Claim(s) rejected: 1-6.
 Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: 7-14.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
 9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
 10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☐ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____
 12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____
 13. ☒ Other: Attachment to advisory action, PTO-892.

Advisory Action

1. The proposed amendments dated 06/01/07, specifically the new limitations of "flexible touch panel which is composed of plastic films", and "stylus thereon", will not be entered because they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search.
2. Applicant's arguments against the valid use of Nielsen as the secondary reference have been fully considered and deemed unpersuasive.
3. Applicant argues that there is no fair suggestion or disclosure by Nielsen of a device having a single substrate upon which a plurality of display devices are formed and over which a continuous touch screen panel is secured, when Nielsen explains that it is possible to maintain continuity of input over different touch screens using the pointing device because the pointing device itself crosses the discontinuity, which is accomplished through a software mapping technique.

Applicant is respectfully apprised that in teaching that multiple displays underlie a discontinuous display surface (column 1, lines 58-60) for a personal digital assistant, better known as a PDA, that has more than one touch screen (column 1, lines 34-37), Nielson is merely describing a common use of a display panel comprising a single substrate on which multiple touch screens, or display devices are present. A touch screen panel is a panel in which a plurality of touch screens can be arranged. Another well-recognized use of a display panel comprising a single substrate on which multiple display devices are formed, is an instrument control display panel for a vehicular dashboard. Therefore, Nielson is indeed a valid secondary reference that teaches a

Art Unit: 1772

common use of a display panel comprising a single substrate on which multiple touch screens, or display devices are present.

4. Applicant requests that the Office provide an example of such an instrument control display panel for vehicular dashboards, as allegedly having a single substrate upon which a plurality of display devices are formed, or withdraw the rejection.

Applicant is respectfully directed to US 2002/0043943A1 (LED arrays, abstract, panel illumination, LED arrays, page 7, [0073], dashboard displays for automobiles, touch panels allow the use of LEDs, page 7, [0074]). See also US 2002/0173354 which is directed to another application of such a display panel comprising a single substrate on which multiple display devices are present.

5. Applicant's arguments regarding the newly proposed amendment, which has not been entered, will not be addressed in this advisory action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sow-Fun Hon whose telephone number is (571)272-1492. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye, can be reached at (571)272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

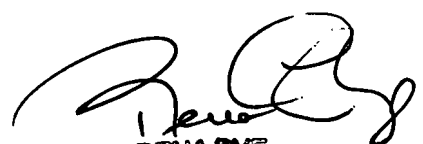
Art Unit: 1772

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Sow-Fun Hon

06/05/07


RENA DYE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
AU 1772